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will have the popular suffrage in its favor, and will attract many readers who could not be induced to read Neal or any of the heavier works that occupy the same ground, we cannot doubt. We are glad, therefore, that such an experiment has been made, and shall take pleasure in announcing and welcoming the appearance of the remaining volumes.

18. — *The Word of the Spirit to the Church.* Boston: Walker, Wise, & Co. 1859. 16mo. pp. 86.

THE author of this discourse is the Rev. Dr. Cyrus A. Bartol. Its aim is to exhibit the ever-present Spirit of God as the life of the Christian soul, the element of union in the Church Universal, and the interpreter of the Divine Word in nature, conscience, and revelation. It is an earnest plea against worldliness, formalism, rationalism, and extra-Christian spiritualism, and in favor of simplicity in worship, vital faith, and indwelling and outworking piety. It has more than its author's wonted kaleidoscopic beauty of style. No writer of our day, in our judgment, equals him in the typology by which common scenes and trivial incidents are made impressive symbols of great and profound spiritual truths. His style at first sight may seem redundant in illustration and metaphor; but every illustration proves a mine of rich thought, every metaphor presents a new phasis of the truth under discussion. He abounds in digressions; but his digressions are always forays into a fruitful region, and he comes back with enhanced wealth of argument or motive for the position he is enforcing or the duty he is urging. The page is gorgeous and glittering, yet with no tinsel or false gems, but only with a profusion seldom paralleled of diamonds and precious stones. His method is his own; we should not like to see it imitated; it is the spontaneous and natural process of exhibition for one who is equally a keen observer and a deep thinker, and who must incorporate with his profoundest thought every image that meets his eye and every suggestion from without that falls upon his ear.

19. — *History of the Life and Times of James Madison.* By WILLIAM C. RIVES. Vol. I. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1859. 8vo. pp. 660.

WE have the promise, for our next number, of a full review of this volume, by a contributor amply qualified to do it justice; and we shall

VOL. XC. — NO. 186. 24

therefore confine ourselves now to a very brief notice of it. It hardly needs, to commend it to the interest of every American citizen, more than the names of its subject and of its author. Mr. Rives unites to a rare degree the offices of the biographer and the historian, blending or alternating them with graceful ease as the nature of his material demands, — presenting Mr. Madison's individuality as clearly as if he had not been identified with public affairs, and narrating the history of the times as perspicuously as if the work had been a mere chronicle of colonial and national transactions. The present volume extends through the four years for which Mr. Madison was an active member of the Congress of the Confederation, (from 1780 to the definitive Treaty of Peace,) and gives a fuller history of the proceedings of that body, and of the various political and diplomatic projects and measures, during that period, than had ever been written before. Mr. Rives's style is pure, perspicuous, and forcible, always adequate to the subject in hand, and worthy of a work which must take its place among the classical authorities in the history of the country.

20. — *Orations and Speeches on Various Occasions.* By EDWARD EVERETT. Vol. III. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1859. 8vo. pp. 847.

WE hope, at an early period, to make the entire collection of Mr. Everett's Orations and Speeches the subject of a full-length article, and in the brief space now at our disposal we can do little more than to announce its completion, that is, the completion of the present series; for we trust that coming years will add yet other volumes to those of which we would now record our grateful admiration. It would be superfluous for us to dilate on the vast resources, the unequalled command of language always commensurate with his subject and his audience, the mastery over every topic and method of argument, persuasion, and appeal, the wonderful versatility, the matchless grace, which characterize Mr. Everett's speeches, one and all. But were we to select one trait in which he distances all rivals, and challenges our perpetual admiration, it would be his uniform sympathy with, adequacy for, and adaptation to the occasion, whatever it be, whether in a deliberative or a popular assembly, on a political or literary festival, in welcome of a living guest or in commemoration of a departed worthy, in some great public interest or on some narrowly local anniversary. Called to a rural village to celebrate an event which has hardly a place in history, he speaks as if he had been born on the very spot, nurtured amidst its